

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

11150 EAST BOULEVARD AT UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
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EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY PAUL KLEE OPENS JULY 7

Works of Paul Klee, one of the most prolific, complex and subtle artists of the twentieth century, go on display at The Cleveland Museum of Art, Friday, July 7, in an exhibition entitled Paul Klee: Works from the Guggenheim Museum. The exhibition of 63 works including oils, water colors, gouaches, drawings, and prints will run through September 3 in the Museum's lower special exhibition gallery.

Klee has been described by Cleveland Museum of Art Curator of Modern Art Edward B. Henning as, "outside of Picasso, probably more imaginative and varied in his technique and style than any artist in the twentieth century." And, he views the Guggenheim collection of Klee as being among the strongest museum collections in this country.

The works in the exhibition span Klee's entire creative life from three rare drawings from his notebook drawn at the age of sixteen to a gouache executed by the sixty-year-old artist in the year of his death. Klee's average yearly production was between 250 and 300 works, and he recorded nearly 9,000 works in an elaborate catalog and numbering system. Throughout his life, Klee explored materials and techniques, merging one medium and method into another. As a young artist he was primarily an illustrator/draftsman, very linear in his orientation. However, upon returning from a short trip to North Africa in 1914 he wrote in his diary, "Color possesses me. . .Color and I are one." From that point on, Klee emerges as the

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supreme colorist who produced works such as Runner at the Goal (1921), Red Balloon (1922), and In the Current Six Thresholds (1929), all included in this exhibition.

Thomas M. Messer, director of the Guggenheim Museum, describes Klee as an artist who encouraged interpretation of his work. Messer says, "Free of arrogance, he never assumed that his own reading alone offered an immutable truth, and he considered, on the contrary, that his paintings served as points of departure for further insights."

Klee was born in 1879 near Bern, Switzerland. From 1898 to 1901 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich. Traveling and exhibiting frequently, he had his first one-man show at Thannhauser's Moderne Galerie, Munich, in 1911: the same year he joined the Blaue Reiter (Blue Rider) Group. He participated in the second Blaue Reiter exhibition in 1912. Following his trip to North Africa in 1914, he began to work primarily in water color.

Service in the German Army (1916-1918) was followed by an appointment to the Bauhaus faculty in 1920. In 1924 Klee had his first exhibition in America at the Société Anonyme, New York. Also that year he joined with Wassily Kandinsky, Lyonel Feininger, and Alexei von Jawlensky in founding Die Blaue Vier (The Blue Four).

Klee resigned from the Bauhaus in 1931 and accepted an appointment at the Academy in Düsseldorf. In 1933, having been dismissed from the Academy by the Nazis, he returned to Bern. By then internationally famous, he had large shows in Bern, Basel, and Lucerne. These were followed by exhibitions in New York and Paris. In 1940 a major exhibition of his work from 1935 to 1940 was held in Zurich; in June of that year he died.

This exhibition is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Cleveland showing is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Department of Art History and Education offers a course, Kandinsky and Klee, taught by Marianne Doezema on four Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., beginning June 20. (There

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is no class on Tuesday, July 4.) The course focuses on the art and theory of both Kandinsky and Klee, particularly as seen in Klee's works in the exhibition.

Gallery talks by Ellen Breitman are scheduled in the exhibition daily July 12 through July 16 at 1:30 p.m.

As part of the Museum's Wednesday Evening Festivals there will be a lecture on the exhibition at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 12, and a workshop on the art of Paul Klee at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 19.

A soft bound catalog of the exhibition is available at the Museum's sales desk for \$6.00.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact David Patterson, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.